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N U M B E R   X L I .   *To be continued Weekly.*

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SATURDAY, *October* 28, 1775. [*Price* Two Pence Half-penny.]

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*Rome, Sparta, and Carthage* PERISHED, and without there  
is some **COURAGE** in Englishmen, *Britain* must ~~be~~ DE-  
STROYED.

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To the P E O P L E of E N G L A N D.

Men and Britons, Friends and Countrymen,



O U R LIVES are to be sacrificed, your LAWS destroyed, your RELIGION changed, your LIBERTIES annihilated, and your ESTATES taken from you by a corrupt House of Commons, a Blood-thirsty Administration, and a tyrannic p-----d King. With YOUR Money F O R E I G N Troops are to be paid, to cut the THROATS of your Brethren and Fellow-subjects, and to carry Slaughter and Defolation through the wide extended Continent of America. The most savage Means have already been made use of to reduce an industrious, brave, free, and loyal People, from a State of Affluence, to that of Poverty, Want and Slavery, only because they have nobly resisted TYRANNY and LAWLESS POWER, and defended their own, and the natural Rights of Mankind, with a Firmness and Resolution (not to be equalled in History) that will do immortal Honour to their Names.

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The Cruelties exercised upon our Brethren in America by mercenary Soldiers, would disgrace the most barbarous Nations upon Earth, and will for ever mark with indelible Infamy, the present Sovereign and his Ministers. Illegal and unjust Taxes have been levied upon them, by a House of Commons smuggled for the Purpose; their Property wantonly and arbitrarily seized; several People inhumanly butchered without Provocation or Offence; their Charters destroyed; new-made Judges, and new modes of Proceeding appointed, unknown to the Laws and Constitution, an Act was passed the last Session of Parliament for the horrid, the diabolical Purpose of destroying, by FAMINE, more than TEN THOUSAND Souls; since that, their Towns and Properties have been destroyed by FIRE and SWORD, when aged Men, Women, and Children perished in the Conflagration.

The House of Commons are now met, for the avowed Purpose of imposing illegal, heavy, and unjust Taxes upon you, to carry on the present bloody, unnatural, ministerial War against the Americans, and to take into the pay of Great Britain a certain Number of foreign Troops, who are to plunge their Swords into the Bowels of our Fellow-subjects, and to carry Devastation, Slaughter, and Massacre through the Land. Should the King and his Ministry succeed in their diabolical Design to enslave one Part of the Empire, and you can be base enough to give them Assistance in this horrid Work, by paying UNJUST Taxes, and tamely complying with such Measures, you will be the next Victims at the Altar of Despotism.---It is, therefore, a Duty you owe to God, to your Country, to yourselves, and to Posterity, not only to REFUSE the Payment of any Taxes that may be levied upon you by the present venal Senate, for the Purpose of paying foreign Troops to carry Fire, Sword, Famine, and Desolation through the Colonies, but you ought to OPPOSE and RESIST the Execution of any such Laws: unless you have Virtue and Resolution enough to act in this Manner, you will entail upon yourselves, and Millions yet unborn, Misery, Oppression, and Slavery. Petitions and Remonstrances have been spurned with Contempt. Your Prince is weak and obstinate; he is a Slave in his Palace, the mere Tool of a Scotch Juntó in the Council; ignorant of the Laws and Constitution; a Stranger to military Affairs, and the whole Art of Government.---Under the Pretence of supporting a SUPREME parliamentary Authority over the most distant Parts of the Empire, NOT REPRESENTED, they design to establish Tyranny and arbitrary Power by Act of Parliament in America, and as a Majority in the present House of Commons is notoriously bribed with the public Money to betray their Trust, every Englishman may soon have the Honour of being made a Slave by Law,

for



for if this uncontrollable Supremacy of Parliament is once admitted, and not opposed and resisted, the Life, Liberty, and Property of every Man will be at the Mercy of a few venal Representatives, a royal Tyrant and his Minions.---Let me advise you then, before this Doctrine, so fatal to the natural Rights of Mankind, gains Ground, to make a noble Stand.--- Nothing can be more dreadful than for a Nation to be involved in the Horrors of a Civil War; but when the common Welfare of ALL is willfully neglected, the most SACRED RIGHTS of the People OPENLY INVADED, the repeated Petitions for Redress of Grievances, not only thought undeserving of Consideration, but the Petitioners made the Jest and Mockery of a corrupt Court, thereby adding Insults to their Injuries, every GOOD MAN will steadily unite in the COMMON CAUSE, and use his utmost Endeavours to wrest the POWER of GOVERNMENT out of Hands that have exercised it WEAKLY and WICKEDLY.

It were much to be wished, that the EVILS of a NATION might be cured without Violence; but when it is evident that the PUBLIC LIBERTY and SAFETY is not even tolerably secured, and that Mischiefs, and those too of a more lasting Kind, daily arise from the Continuance of the present Men in Power, than are to be feared from the vigorous Efforts for an ALTERATION of them, it is LAWFUL and HONOURABLE, and it is OUR DUTY, to oppose and defeat their System of Government, which apparently tends to the utter Subversion of the RIGHTS and LIBERTIES of a FREE PEOPLE. By the Law of Nature every Man has a Right to defend himself against the Abuse of Power, and by the singular Constitution of this Kingdom, when KINGS and MINISTERS break through the Bounds prescribed by LAW, the People's Right of RESISTANCE is unquestionable: for as the End of all Civil Government is the SAFETY and HAPPINESS of the whole Body, any Power not naturally conducive to this End, is certainly unjust. The Prince and People enter into a Compact, or Engagement, one with another; the Prince to govern well; and the People, so long as the Contract is religiously adhered to on his Part, to honour and obey him. If he regards his own Interest, or the Interest of his Minions, in Preference to that of his People, he necessarily forfeits every Claim to their Affection and Esteem.

In Times of national Decay---when Trade is rapidly declining---when the POOR are groaning under the Oppressions of the RICH---when the ancient Rights and Liberties of the People are daringly attacked, and openly violated---when that Land which used to be esteemed a PARADISE, is made a Stage of Cruelty and Injustice---when Merit is wholly neglected, and those only advanced at this Time, who are willing to be-  
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Instrument in the horrid Work of DESPOTISM---when PUBLIC DUTIES engage not the least Share of Attention; but senseless Ostentation, Profuseness, and Dissipation, are the sole Objects of Delight amongst the GREAT, whose pernicious Examples tend to draw all Ranks of Men to a base Uniformity of SPIRIT with THEMSELVES---when our Court is slavish, our Parliament corrupted, and those who formerly brought Kings and Ministers to a Sense of their Duty, submit themselves, in the midst of Affluence, to a mean, servile Dependence upon the Crown---when Bribery at Elections, which utterly destroys the Morals of the People, is publicly avowed, as the necessary Expedient of Government---when all Manner of Profaneness, Looseness, Luxury, and Immorality are set up and countenanced, instead of Piety, Modesty, and Justice---when the SWORD is employed by a Blood-thirsty implacable Administration to massacre our guiltless Fellow-subjects abroad, and is surely destined, in the End to butcher those at home---when rascally INFORMERS are employed by the Ministry, as in the infamous and corrupt Reign of Charles the Second, to swear away the Lives of those few brave and virtuous Men, who are the tried friends of their Country.---What Joy can an Englishman receive when the true Face of our Affairs carries such a miserable Aspect? What Heart is there so unfeeling with Respect to the Public Welfare, as not to sympathize with the Distresses and Calamities of his Country.

It is, therefore, the indispensable Duty of every Man, at this Time, who has Virtue enough to prefer the general Good of the Community, and who pretends to a Concern for its Interests, to consider well the PART he ought to take, in a Scene so pregnant with MISCHIEF, RUIN, and DISTRESS. He must either shamefully relapse into an indolent Indifference about every Thing that ought to interest him as an ENGLISHMAN, or be animated by a just and honourable Purpose of obtaining a Satisfaction to the LAWS OF HIS COUNTRY, equal, at least, to the Violation they have suffered.

Unless the present infernal Ministry is removed, the present Parliament dissolved, the Septennial Act repealed, Placemen and Pensioners not suffered to sit in the House of Commons, a more equal Representation of the People, and the present Measures of Government entirely changed: I say, unless these Things are accomplished through the intrepid Firmness and spirited Resolution of the People, the Life and personal Liberty of every Man who may ACT, WRITE, or SPEAK in Opposition to the Corrupt and Bloody Court of George the Third, must be in danger from Ministerial ASSASSINS and INFORMERS. The Orders for apprehending STEPHEN SAYRE, Esq; and seizing his Papers, upon a ridiculous, futile



tile Charge of TREASON, ought to alarm every Man in the Kingdom. The best and worthiest Men in England may fall a Sacrifice to those PARRICIDES, those TRAYTORS, those BLOOD-HOUNDS of Power, and their suborned Evidences, if a speedy Stop is not put to their innumerable Proceedings by a general ASSOCIATION of the People: The sagacious Fielding, and the Cyclops Rochford, ought to have known, that the Information given against Mr. Sayre, by RICHARDSON, who was paid for the Purpose, did not authorize them to commit him, under the Statute of Treasons passed in the Reign of Edward the Third.---The Informer did not prove, as the Statute requires, any OVERT ACT of Treason, which ought to have been done; as it was not, the Commitment is arbitrary and illegal. NO WORDS can amount to TREASON.---If a Subject conspire with a foreign Prince to invade the Realm by open Hostility, and does not PREPARE for the same, by some Overt Act, it is no Treason, by the before-mentioned Statute. A Conspiracy to levy War is no Treason by the same Act, until it be levied, for without that it is no Overt Act, or manifest Proof of compassing the Death of the King. To compass and imagine, is to contrive, design, or intend the Death of the King; but this must be declared by some OVERT ACT. Indeed Lord Mansfield, with the Assistance of Chancellor Abbot, may make Treason of the Lord's Prayer, or the Ten Commandments, by CONSTRUCTION. However, if a grand Jury should find a Bill there surely is not Twelve Englishmen to be got in the Kingdom who would, even with all the Sophistry and all the Chicanery of a Mansfield, convict Mr. Sayre of Treason; besides, there must be TWO Men of the same CONDITION with the Prisoner, to prove an OVERT ACT of Treason; but if all Sir John Fielding's Thief-takers and himself, together with Lord Rochford and his INFORMER, should swear, that Stephen Sayre, Esq; SAID, he would seize the King's Person, and take the Tower of London, it would not make these bare WORDS Treason. There is no doubt, however, but Lord Rochford, and the rest of the Ministry, as they could suborn one Wretch to inform, will be able to procure another, equally infamous, to swear whatever they shall desire.

Many brave and virtuous Men, the Champions of Liberty, have been villainously dispatched to the other World in former Reigns, by illegal Trials, suborned Evidences, corrupt Judges, and infatuated Superiors, and why not at this Time? what has been, may be again. The great ALGERNON SIDNEY fell a Sacrifice in the Time of Charles the Second, a Reign equally infamous and inglorious with the present: in those Days, as in these, the scattered Remains of English Liberty were attacked on all Sides, and no Man who was distinguished for a Love of Freedom, could escape Destruction. The SPYING and INFORMING Trade was carried on with great Success, and encouraged by Charles the  
Second



Second and his Ministers, as it is now by George the Third and his Ministers. — Charles was blessed with the bloody-minded, the inhuman JEFFERIES, as CHIEF Justice: George is equally happy in a MURRAY. Sidney, with the true Spirit of an Englishman, when he came before the Council, told them, with a Boldness which Innocence inspired, that if they had any PROOF against him, he should make the best Defence he could; but they were not to expect he would fortify their Evidence by any Thing he should say: By this Means his Examination was very short, besides there being no Sort of Evidence against him, his Commitment like that of Mr. Sayre's was illegal and against Law; for he was not taken up as a Plotter, or Traitor, but, like Mr. Sayre, for being a Republican. However there was no Crime at that Time more capital, nor is there a greater at this, than to be an Enemy to unlimited Monarchy, and despotic Power. Mr. Sidney was committed to the Tower, but not denied the Use of Pen, Ink and Paper, or the Sight of his Friends, as Mr. Sayre now is, to the eternal Disgrace and Infamy of the present Ministry. The Trial of Mr. Sidney was certainly a Master-piece in its Kind, and will transmit the Infamy of the Judges and Juries which were employed, to latest Posterity. A Jury was picked out, agreeable to the Desire of the Court: They consisted of the meanest of the People. Sidney objected to a Number of them because they were not Freeholders; but Jefferies (the Mansfield of our Days) told him, that had been over-ruled in Lord Ruffel's Case, and therefore it should be so in his. JEFFERIES, like MANSFIELD, was for making PRECEDENTS, and as no Witnesses could be produced, not even the unpardoned WEST, and the to be pardoned Lord Howard, that proved any Act of Treason, and as Jefferies was resolved to condemn him right or wrong, he had Recourse to his Papers, and though no one could prove the Hand-writing, yet, by the singular Sagacity of Jefferies, they were found to contain sufficient Proof for Conviction. Not to mention a Number of other Particulars equally infamous and disgraceful, the Court concluded, that SIDNEY was not only guilty of being concerned in a PLOT which was charged upon him, but that he could not have been otherwise, because his PRINCIPLES led him to it, to which Jefferies added; that he was born a Traytor. O! glorious Times, renewed again by George the Third: Now for Plots and Counter-plots, which Mansfield shall make out.

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